

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02664

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO INITIATIVES: VIEWS OF FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR
ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM

SUMMARY. IN CALL ON MISSION DEFAD 15 MARCH, FRG DEFAD
VON SANDRART INDICATED THAT FRG WRITTEN COMMENTS ON LTDP
TASK FORCE REPORTS WOULD BE POSITIVELY SUPPORTIVE AND THAT
FRG VIEWS TO BE EXPRESSED AT REINFORCED EWG ON 21-23
MARCH WOULD BE GENERALLY POSITIVE BUT PRELIMINARY RATHER
THAN FINAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 15 MARCH FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR (VON SANDRART) CALLED
ON MISSION DEFENSE ADVISOR (LEGERE) FOR AN EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS PRIOR TO THE FORMER'S PARTICIPATION ON 16 MARCH IN
BONN MEETINGS ON THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM IN GENERAL
AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE FRG'S APPROACH TO THE REINFORCED
EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG) MEETING AT NATO ON 21-23
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MARCH.

2. VON SANDRART SAID THAT BONN'S WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE
TASK FORCE REPORTS WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO THE IS AND DELE-
GATIONS ON 15 MARCH. (NOTE: WE WILL BE TRANSMITTING THE
TEXT OF THE COMMENTS BY DACOM.) HE STRESSED THAT (A) THE
COMMENTS WERE PRELIMINARY, AND DID THEREFORE NOT REPRESENT

FINAL FRG POSITIONS; AND (B) THE COMMENTS WERE ON INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCE REPORTS AND HAD NOT NECESSARILY BEEN COORDINATED WITH ONE ANOTHER; AND (C) THE COMMENTS WERE POSITIVELY SUPPORTIVE. DEFAD NOTED THAT WASHINGTON ALSO CONSIDERED GENERALLY THAT NATIONAL COMMENTS AT OR IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 21-23 MARCH REINFORCED EWG SHOULD BE PRELIMINARY AND NON-BINDING -- AS THE EWG HAD ALREADY AGREED. VON SANDRART ALSO HOPED THAT NEITHER THE EWG CHAIRMAN NOR THE US WOULD PRESS FOR HARD SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS AT THE 21-23 MARCH EWG MEETING, BECAUSE HE FEARED SUCH PRESSURE MIGHT EVOKE MORE UNHELPFUL THAN HELPFUL REACTIONS, PARTICULARLY FROM SMALLER NATIONS THAT HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ANALYZE THE TASK FORCE REPORTS SUFFICIENTLY.

3. VON SANDRART COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCE REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

. A. THE FRG EVALUATORS HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT ELEMENTS OF THE TF6 (C3) REPORT, PARTICULARLY COMMON FUNDING PROPOSALS AND SHAPE MANAGEMENT OF SOME PROPOSED PROGRAMS, AND ABOUT SOME OF THE "MORE EXPENSIVE" PROPOSALS OF TF9 (LOGISTICS) -- BY WHICH HE WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO BUILD-UP OF WAR RESERVE STOCKS.

. B. THE FRG EVALUATORS FOUND THE TF5 (AIR DEFENSE) CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORT TO BE EXCELLENT, WITH BUT FEW QUALIFICATIONS.

. C. VON SANDRART, PERHAPS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CASE FOR MOVING UPWARD, PERHAPS EVEN ALL THE WAY TO THE SUMMIT, AN AMALGAM OF MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE TF2 (REINFORCEMENT) REPORT WITH CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE TF3 (RESERVES) AND TF1 (READINESS) REPORTS -- IN THE LATTER INSTANCE PARTICULARLY THE PROPOSALS FOR UPGRADING THE CATEGORIES OF FORCE COMMITMENTS. DEFAD SAID THERE CERTAINLY WAS A STRONG CASE FOR EUROPEAN QUIDS IN THE TF3 AREA FOR US (AND CANADIAN) QUOS IN THE TF2 AREA.

. D. VON SANDRART SAID THE FRG DID NOT THINK MUCH OF THE TF8 (RATIONALIZATION) REPORT, BUT THOUGHT THAT SUMMIT DECLARATIONS OF STRONG GOVERNMENT INTENTION WOULD HELP COMPENSATE FOR THE WEAKNESS OF THE REPORT. DEFAD SAID HE TOO HOPED FOR STRONG SUMMIT DECLARATIONS ON ALLIANCE CO-OPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION-INTEROPERABILITY, BUT STRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THE EWG, PERMREPS, AND PERHAPS MINISTERS WERE GOING TO HAVE TO STRENGTHEN CONSIDERABLY THE LTDP COVERAGE OF SUBJECTS TREATED SO FLABBILY IN THE TF8 REPORT.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, DEFAD UNDERLINED, AND VON

SANDRART AGREED ON, THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPARTING A STRONGLY
UPBEAT DIMENSION TO THE EWG REINFORCED MEETING ON 21-23
MARCH. BENNETT

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